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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 59 of the First Extraordinary Session  
By Bone

A RESOLUTION to commend and congratulate Wilson County  
upon the occasion of its bicentennial.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected officials of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those noteworthy communities that have contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of this state and its local economies; and

WHEREAS, the praiseworthy communities of Wilson County and its citizens are most assuredly deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, September 16, 1799, the members of the third General Assembly met in Knoxville and welcomed a new county into this great state; and

WHEREAS, created from Sumner County, the new county was named Wilson County after Revolutionary War hero, David Wilson, a distinguished member of the North Carolina legislature and the legislature of the Territory South of the River Ohio, which later became part of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the esteemed members of the Third General Assembly designated the boundaries of Wilson County as "beginning upon the south bank of the river Cumberland at low water mark, at the mouth of Drake's Lick branch, the northeast corner of Davidson County, thence with the line of Davidson County, to the Cherokee boundary, as run and marked agreeably to the treaty of Holston, and with the said boundary to the Caney Fork, and down

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the Caney Fork according to its meanders to the mouth thereof, thence down the meanders of Cumberland River, by the south bank to the beginning"; and

WHEREAS, Wilson County was officially established on October 26, 1799, three years after Tennessee became a state; and

WHEREAS, before the arrival of the European settlers in the 1700s, the area of land that was to become Wilson County was dotted with mounds and sites of fortified villages of the prehistoric Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, because of the wild game that was in abundance in the cane brakes and cedar forests of the region, the Native Americans used the land as part of their hunting grounds; and

WHEREAS, over the past two centuries, Wilson County has experienced tremendous growth and many changes; and

WHEREAS, in 1842, Wilson County saw its first and only four-year university established in the city of Lebanon, called Cumberland University; and

WHEREAS, as the 19<sup>th</sup> county established, it has been home to many notable people, including the first inductee into the Agriculture Hall of Fame, Haskell Neal, and five governors: William Bowen Campbell; Robert Looney Caruthers; Jimmy C. Jones; Samuel Houston; and Frank Goad Clement; and

WHEREAS, Wilson County has been led by tenacious and stalwart individuals; its governing bodies have persevered through two world wars, numerous world conflicts, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction Period; and

WHEREAS, at the outbreak of the Civil War, hundreds of Wilson Countians showed their volunteer spirit by joining the Confederate Army, while some joined the Union Army; and

WHEREAS, some Wilson County natives played significant roles during the Civil War; General Robert Hatton, a lawyer and U.S. Representative, was elected to command the 7<sup>th</sup>

Tennessee Infantry of the Confederate Army, which fought under General Robert E. Lee in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, between 1861-1865, thousands of troops from the Confederate and Union armies marched through Wilson County on their way to and from fighting in pivotal battles, such as the Battles of Murfreesboro and Nashville; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 1862, Wilson County was the host to its own fierce battle when Union troops surprised the Confederate cavalry troops of Colonel John Hunt Morgan; and

WHEREAS, after the Civil War, industry and transportation expanded into Wilson County with the establishment of the Tennessee and Pacific Railroad, the Tennessee Central Railroad, Lebanon Woolen Mills, and the Gulf Red Cedar Company; and

WHEREAS, Wilson County was also home to the famous Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon, until it closed in the 1980s; its main campus building now serves as Lebanon's City Hall; and

WHEREAS, Wilson County also played a crucial role in World War II when Lebanon became the center of the Second Army's maneuvers; and

WHEREAS, General George Patton's tanks rumbled through the town of Lebanon before deployment to Europe, making the Cumberland University campus the headquarters for this momentous event; and

WHEREAS, it is noted that the training received in Wilson County is credited with winning World War II; and

WHEREAS, after World War II, Wilson County experienced tremendous business and industrial growth with the opening of the first industrial park in Tennessee, which included the establishment of Hartmann Luggage, TRW, and the corporate headquarters of Cracker Barrel Old Country Store; and

WHEREAS, today, Wilson County continues to enjoy economic diversity in agriculture, industry, education, religion, and business; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those communities and their citizenry who are commemorating significant milestones in their stalwart existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate the citizens of Wilson County upon the celebration of their bicentennial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.